

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application upon entry of this amendment. Support for amendments to claims 1-10 and new claims 11 and 12 can be found throughout the originally filed specification. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been introduced and entry of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached Appendix is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE".

It is respectfully submitted that the instant application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is courteously solicited. If any questions remain, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned attorney to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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Attachment: Appendix

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APPENDIX

I. VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Amended) An uncoated and unfilled acrylic polymer product obtained from an acrylic composition comprising [at least] greater than 70 % w/w of the residues of at least one polymerizable acrylic monomer, 0.3 – 5 % w/w of a finely divided compound comprising at least one oxide selected from silicon, titanium, zirconium and aluminum oxides, and 0.2-25 % w/w of at least one linking compound which is miscible with said polymerizable acrylic [compound] monomer and which is capable of bonding to the surface of the oxide compound.
2. (Amended) [An acrylic composition] A product as claimed in claim 1, wherein the linking compound contains at least one functional group which is copolymerizable with the acrylic monomers and a polar group and which is capable of bonding to the surface of the oxide compound.
3. (Amended) [An acrylic composition] A product as claimed in claim 2, wherein the linking compound comprises a monofunctional or polyfunctional acrylate or methacrylate compound which additionally contains a polar hydroxyl group.
4. (Amended) [An acrylic composition] A product as claimed in claim 3, wherein the linking compound is selected from hydroxyethylmethacrylate, hexanedioldiacrylate or tripropylglycolmethacrylate.
5. (Twice Amended) [An acrylic composition] A product as claimed in claim 1, wherein the finely divided oxide compound comprises colloidal silica.
6. (Twice Amended) [An acrylic composition] A product as claimed in claim 1, wherein the finely divided oxide compound has an average particle size between 1 and 50 nm.

7. (Twice Amended) [An acrylic composition] A product as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ratio of said linking compound to said finely divided oxide is [preferably] in the range 1:1 – 5:1 by weight.
8. (Amended) [A] An uncoated and unfilled acrylic polymer product obtained from a polymerizable composition comprising [at least] greater than 70 % w/w of at least one polymerizable acrylic monomer, 0.3 – 5 % w/w of a finely divided compound comprising at least one oxide selected from silicon, titanium, zirconium and aluminum oxides, and 0.2-25 % w/w of at least one linking compound which is miscible with said polymerizable acrylic [compound] monomer and which is capable of bonding to the surface of the oxide compound.
9. (Twice Amended) A process for forming an acrylic composition comprising:
- (a) mixing together 70-99.5% w/w of a polymerisable acrylic monomer or a solution of a polymer in a polymerisable acrylic monomer with 0.5-30% w/w of a dispersion comprising 20-50% w/w of a finely divided compound selected from oxides of silicon, titanium, zirconium or aluminum and 50 – 80% of at least one linking compound which is miscible with said polymerisable acrylic compound and which is capable of bonding to the surface of the oxide compound;
 - (b) adding to said mixture a quantity of one or more initiator(s) which is sufficient to initiate polymerization of the acrylic monomer under the conditions used; and
 - (c) polymerising the acrylic monomer.
10. (Twice Amended) [An] A product [acrylic composition] as claimed in claim 1, [which] in the form of a sheet, powder, pellet or bead.

New claims 11 and 12 are added.